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a·bout [ə bōwt] **CORE MEANING:** a grammatical word that refers to different sides or aspects of something from some point of orientation • *(prep) a book about a dog*
• *(adv) There's a lot of laziness about.*

1. preposition

in connection with: in connection with or relating to • *think about problems*

2. preposition

approximately: close to in number, time, or degree • *inviting about 15 people*

3. preposition

doing or attending to: with or in an activity
• *go about your business*

4. preposition

close by: placed, located, or happening close by or around • *frantic activity going on all about us*

5. preposition

around: around or on a place or person • *a red scarf about her neck*

6. adverb preposition

in various places: positioned here and there
• *scattered about the house*

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- *scattered about the house*

7. adverb preposition

in different directions: from place to place in different directions or in no particular direction • *children running about everywhere*

8. adverb

in circulation: available or in circulation
• *there was never much money about*

9. adverb

into a reversed position: in or to the opposite direction • *the wrong way about*

10. adverb

all around: on every side of or all the way around "He proceeded to the banks of the Hudson, and looked about among the vessels." Jules Verne *Around the World in 80 Days* (1873)

11. adverb

used as intensifier: used to emphasize a statement, usually when expressing impatience or anger (*informal*) • *Well, it's about time you showed up!*

12. adverb

NAUTICAL to opposite tack: on or to the opposite tack

[Old English *onbūtan* "on or around the outside of," from *on* (see *on*) + *būtan* (see *but*)]

be about to be on the point of doing something • *The game was about to start.*

be what something or somebody is (all) about to be what something or somebody involves or has as a purpose (*informal*)

not about to used to emphasize that somebody is certainly not going to do something (*informal*) • *I'm not about to apologize!*

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un-*abridged* \ən-ə-ˈbrijd/
adj : being the most complete
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about[1,adverb]
 about[2,preposition]
 about[3,adjective]



Main Entry: ¹**about** 4)

Pronunciation: ə-ˈbawt

Function: *adverb*

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *abutan*, from ¹a- +
 butan outside -- more at **BUT**

Date: before 12th century

1 **a** : reasonably close to <*about* a year ago> **b** : **ALMOST** <*about*
 starved> **c** : on the verge of -- usually used with *be* and a following
 infinitive <*is about* to join the army> -- used with a negative to
 express intention or determination <*not about* to quit>

2 : on all sides : **AROUND**

3 **a** : in rotation **b** : around the outside

4 : **HERE AND THERE**

5 : in the vicinity : **NEAR**

6 : in succession : **ALTERNATELY** <*turn about* is fair play>

7 : in the opposite direction <*face about*> <*the other way about*>

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Pronunciation Symbols

ʌ as a and u in about
ɪ as e in kitten
ʌr as ur/er in further
ʌ as a in ash
ʌ as a in ace
ʌ as o in mop
aʊ as ou in out
tʃ as ch in chin

ɛ as e in bet
eɪ as ea in easy
g as g in go
ɪ as i in hit
i as i in ice
j as j in job
ŋ as ng in sing
o as o in go

ɔ as aw in law
ɔɪ as oy in boy
θ as th in thin
θ as th in the
ʊ as oo in loot
ʊ as oo in foot
y as y in yet
z as si in vision

For more information see the [Guide To Pronunciation](#).

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